

Did you know...



Children who can describe things and events, can have conversations about what is happening in books, and who can tell stories are better able to understand what they hear, and later, what they read.

Here's how...

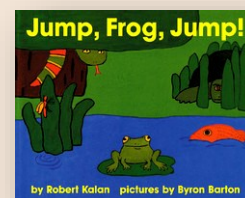


- ✦ Read books that have words or phrases that repeat, such as "Jump, Frog, Jump!" Encourage your child to say the repeated phrase with you each time.
- ✦ Re-read books so your child can become familiar with the story, making it easier to retell the story.
- ✦ Have your child retell the story.
- ✦ Encourage your child to tell you something from her own experience related to what happened in the book.
- ✦ Use puppets or props to tell the story to help your child remember it; have your child use props to help retell the story (see "Play" section on page 2).
- ✦ Encourage your child to talk about the pictures in the book, even if what she says is not in the story. Ask open-ended questions (ones that cannot be answered with yes or no).
- ✦ Have your child draw pictures and ask her to tell you about them.
- ✦ Expand on your child's descriptions. You: What have you got there? Child: A ball. You: Oh, it's a big, red, bouncy ball! What game shall we play with it?

Read



Jump, Frog, Jump! by Robert Kalan



This colorful children's book is full of repetitive phrases and a storyline that builds on itself. Children will quickly join in with the phrase, "Jump, frog, jump!" as the frog tries to get away from a variety of animals and people. Will he make it safely out of the swamp?

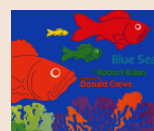
This book is also available in Spanish:
Salta, Ranita, Salta!

Other books by this author:

Blue Sea

Moving Day

Rain



Choosing Books



Books that help build describing or retelling skills (sometimes called "narrative" skills):

Books with a repeated phrase

Books that repeat part of the story

Books that tell a tale that builds on itself

Books where the events happen in an order

Books with detailed illustrations

Wordless picture books

Talk



Children learn most from books when they are actively involved. Rather than just reading a story to your child, try sharing the reading:

- What do you think will happen next?
- What does this remind you of?
- What is the frog doing in this picture?
- How do you think the boy is feeling? Why?

You don't have to stop on *every* page; in fact, your child may lose interest if you do. But asking some open-ended questions along the way helps your child get ready to read.

Write



This website has a variety of activities to help your preschooler learn to write. It is most effective to keep these activities fun and a natural part of the day, such as making a grocery list or practicing their name.

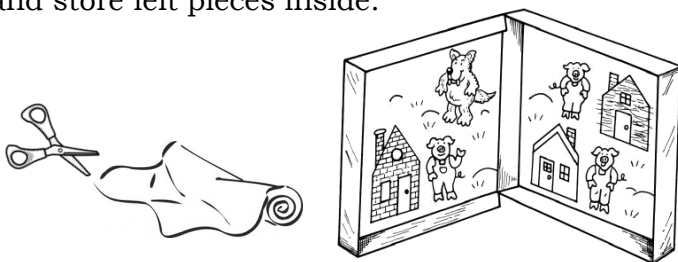
www.first-school.ws/theme/handwriting.htm

Play



Help your child re-tell stories by using props made from felt or flannel. Here's a low-cost fun idea:

Use a pizza box or similar flat box with a lid (many pizza stores will give you an unused one if you ask). Cover inside and/or lid with felt or flannel. Make characters or other objects from the story out of felt, or print clip art from a computer and glue a piece of felt to the back. The felt makes it easy to move them around as your child tells the story. Use the box for other stories, and store felt pieces inside.



Sing



Five Little Speckled Frogs

(Match actions to words)

Five little speckled frogs
Sitting on a speckled log,
Eating some most delicious bugs.
Yum, yum!

One jumped into the pool,
Where it was nice and cool.
Now there are four little speckled frogs.
Burr-ump!

Repeat, counting down until there are no little speckled frogs.



See a video and hear song at <http://bussongs.com/songs/five-green-and-speckled-frogs.php>

At your library...



Your library, in cooperation with the Idaho Commission for Libraries, now offers free "storytimes online" every day of the year. Each day features an online book to read with your child, as well as songs, rhymes, fingerplays, videos, crafts, and other activities that you can access from a computer or Smartphone.

DayByDayID.org
STORYTIMES ONLINE